

# **CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM**

## **Interim Interagency Watershed Advisory Team**

### **Meeting Summary**

The Interim Interagency Watershed Advisory Team (IIWAT) met on June 9, 1998, to discuss the following topics:

- Proposal to develop Bay Delta Advisory Council (BDAC) Watershed Work Group
- Revised Programmatic EIS/EIR Schedule
- Refinement of Watershed Management Program Goals and Objectives
- Tasks for the Work Group Members

#### **Introduction**

Judy Heath (CALFED Bay-Delta Program) began the meeting with introductions. The following people were in attendance:

Ken Coulter, State Water Resources Control Board  
Wendy Halverson Martin, CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
Russ Henly, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Joe Karkoski, U.S. EPA  
Mary Lee Knecht, CALFED Consultant Team  
John Lowrie, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Anthony Saracino, Resources Agency (Consultant)  
Lester Snow, CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
Julie Tupper, U.S. Forest Service  
Phil Wendt, CA Department of Water Resources

Auditing the meeting was Steve Cowdin, CA Department of Water Resources

#### **Proposed BDAC Watershed Work Group**

Lester Snow (Executive Director, CALFED Bay-Delta Program) discussed the proposed BDAC Watershed Work Group. Mr. Snow noted that there was a large outpouring of support for watershed management at the two Regional Watershed Stakeholder Meetings and at the Redding Bay-Delta Advisory Council meeting. In addition, many people showed interest in participating in the Work Group (90+). Because of the large number of people interested in participating in the Work Group, concern was raised as to the efficacy and efficiency of such a large Work Group. This concern led to the formulation of a new framework for the Work Group.

Mr. Snow recommended that a BDAC Watershed Work Group be formed for the Watershed Management Program. It is suggested that the BDAC Watershed Work Group consist of 15 to 20 stakeholders and be chaired and co-chaired by two BDAC members. It was recommended that Bob Meacher (Regional Council of Rural Counties) and Martha Davis (Sierra Nevada

Alliance) be appointed in these positions.

A balanced representation on the proposed BDAC Watershed Work Group is important. It was suggested that the IIWAT choose the organizations that they would like to participate, but let the organizations self-select their representatives to serve on the Work Group. The chair and co-chair would participate in the nomination of organizations and selection of individuals. Mr. Snow stated that similar work groups have been formulated for other CALFED programs with varying degrees of success.

A question was raised as to whether the chair and co-chair needs to be BDAC members. It was responded that the benefits of having BDAC members chair and co-chair the BDAC Watershed Work Group includes capitalizing on their broad understanding of the relationship of the Watershed Management Program with the overall goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program.

Some of the IIWAT members raised a concern that there may be some criticism with selecting members of the Sierra Nevada Alliance and the Regional Council of Rural Counties. It was mentioned that other stakeholders may infer that these two organizations have "inside connections" with CALFED. Additionally, not all of the stakeholders agree with their principles. However, Mr. Snow stated that it would be very difficult to choose two organizations that all stakeholders could agree upon. The BDAC Watershed Work Group will be formulated to represent a balance of interests.

It was suggested that in order for the BDAC Watershed Work Group to be productive and effective, the IIWAT would need to provide them with clear direction, specific tasks, and priorities. It was decided that the BDAC Watershed Work Group would begin with reviewing and commenting on the *Draft Principles of CALFED Watershed Activities* and the *Draft Goals and Objectives of the Watershed Management Program*. The idea of a Nominal Group Technique or American Assembly Process to be conducted by the BDAC Watershed Work Group was discussed. These are facilitated "think-tank processes" where a two to three day session is held to collaboratively work through issues and identify solutions.

John Lowrie asked a question about who would provide staffing for the new BDAC Watershed Work Group. Mr. Snow responded that CALFED would provide the staff for the BDAC Watershed Work Group meetings. The IIWAT would coordinate with the BDAC Watershed Work Group to schedule meetings and plan agendas. Following BDAC Watershed Work Group meetings, IIWAT would review recommendations and ensure that work products are routed through Management Team and Policy Group.

In order to ensure broad stakeholder input, it was recommended that the BDAC Watershed Work Group hold public workshops in key locations. When the formation of the BDAC Watershed Work Group is announced, the plans to hold public workshops will be included.

The formation of a BDAC Work Group was agreed upon by the IIWAT. The IIWAT was then charged with reviewing the list of organizations which represent those stakeholders who signed in at the CALFED Regional Watershed Stakeholder meetings. It was also agreed upon to

nominate organizations which represent the geographic diversity of watershed regions and a cross-section of interest groups.

(Update: On June 10, 1998 an organization list was submitted to all IIWAT members for their nominations.)

### **Revised Programmatic EIS/EIR Schedule**

Wendy Halverson Martin (CALFED Bay Delta Program) gave a brief presentation regarding the revised Programmatic EIS/EIR schedule. Recently, the public comment period for the Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR was extended to July 1, 1998. It was also decided that a Revised Programmatic EIS/EIR will be released on December 15, 1998 in place of a Final Programmatic EIS/EIR. Please refer to the handout entitled *1998 EIS/R Schedule*.

This schedule will necessitate that the IIWAT, in coordination with the BDAC Watershed Work Group, will need to have a revised strategy and other Program components completed by August 28, 1998. This means that CALFED agency and stakeholder meetings to receive input need to be conducted between now and August 28, 1998. Camera ready documents need to be sent to the Revised Draft Programmatic EIS/R staff by October 9, 1998. The release of the Agency Administrative Draft of the Revised Programmatic EIS/R is planned October 19, 1998.

### **Refinement of Watershed Management Program Goals and Objectives**

The goals and objectives as proposed during the May 19, 1998, IIWAT meeting were discussed. Several suggestions for revision were made. Comments for revising Objective I were received. Judy indicated these would be included in the next revision. The draft CALFED Watershed Principles which address projects or activities that could be supported by the Watershed Management Program was mentioned. Many of the principles were developed in part by Sam Ziegler, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Watershed Stewardship Solicitation package. The IIWAT requested that a copy of the draft principles be circulated for review.

It was indicated that the Watershed Management Program was created to assist *all* watersheds throughout the CALFED geographic scope, not just the upper watersheds. It was also pointed out that the goals and objectives need to reflect the interconnectedness between the Watershed Management Program and the other common programs. The linkage between the upper watersheds and the Bay-Delta system needs to be identified.

Julie Tupper indicated that Patrick Leonard, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was working on a paper for the Ecosystem Restoration Program which integrates aquatic with non-aquatic processes from a watershed perspective. Julie will try to incorporate his ideas into a draft White Paper for review by the IIWAT and the new BDAC Watershed Work Group.

Steve Cowdin indicated that he knew of three reports which could be used to help refine the goals and objectives and be instrumental in developing a revised Watershed Management Strategy: State Wetlands Protection Development Grant - Quarterly Report; Multi-Objective

Approaches to Floodplain Management on a Watershed Basis - Preliminary Benefit/Cost Analysis Framework Flowcharts; and Multi-Objective Approaches to Floodplain Management on a Watershed Basis - Preliminary Glossary. Judy indicated that she would download these documents from the website address provided by Steve and circulate them to the IIWAT.

On June 13, 1998, Judy sent a copy of the revised goals and objectives, the Watershed Principles, and a copy of a memo suggesting watershed monitoring protocols to the IIWAT for their input. Comments are due back to Judy by June 17, 1998. In addition, Judy downloaded the documents referred to by Steve Cowdin and sent a copy to each IIWAT member on June 10, 1998.

Julie Tupper indicated she would circulate the draft white paper for input by June 18, 1998.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 22, 1998, Room 1142, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. During this meeting, the compiled list of nominated organizations to represent the BDAC Watershed Work Group will be reviewed. The revised goals and objectives will be reviewed. Recommended tasks for the BDAC Watershed Work Group will be discussed. A representative from the Comprehensive Monitoring, Assessment and Research Program will discuss plans to integrate with IIWAT and stakeholders to develop the watershed monitoring and assessment component of the overall CALFED Bay Delta Program monitoring plan.

### **Attachments**

1998 Revised Programmatic EIS/EIR Schedule  
Revised Goals and Objectives  
Draft Watershed Principles